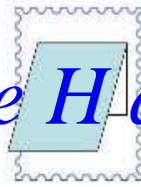




The *H*amilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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April Meeting

This is a busy month for the philatelist and not just because of the number of stamp events in our local area (take a look at the Upcoming Events on the last page).

Our meeting on April 19th has a host of activities including philatelic items for trade or sale, updated display posters and the nomination of HTPS members for Officer Positions.



This month's presentation is by HTPS member Hank Applegate who will speak on the "*The 1926 Philadelphia Sesquicentennial*" and the use of the U.S. stamp issue #627 which shows the Liberty Bell. Hank has spoken at our meetings before and we all look forward to another interesting talk.

So why not stop by and join the fun!

Stamp Identification

Last month's stamp was correctly identified by **William McCarroll** as Italy Roman States #2 – part of the Papal Arms issue of 1852. That made it two months in a row for Bill.



Our mystery stamp for this month was sent in by **John Ranto** who challenges us to identify an overprinted issue with few obvious clues. In fact, the image may even be upside down.

Once again, we offer **\$1.00** in mint US stamps to the first correct responder. Perhaps John will let the winner keep the stamp!

In this Issue . . .

- *March Proceedings*
- *Stamp Center Changes*
- *HTPS Officer Nominations*
- *Upcoming Events*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



April is one of my favorite months of the year. It gets warmer. The opening day of trout and striper season is around the corner. The grass, trees and plants come back to life and there are a multitude of stamp shows to visit.

At this month's meeting, we will have the nomination of next years HTPS Officers. If you are a HTPS member, please consider becoming involved in the Society. Look at the functions and responsibilities associated with the various positions. They can be found on our website or on the poster board at the monthly meetings. New thoughts and ideas are needed if our Society is to continue to grow and attract others like you.

If there are any questions or interest in any of the HTPS positions, please feel free to let me or any of the Officers aware of this fact. We will gladly advise you of the pros and cons of the job.

The most important thing about all of the HTPS positions, as for most things in life, is good communication skills.

I look forward to seeing you on the 19th. . . Ed.

March Proceedings

by **Jack Sack**

An overflow crowd was in attendance for our March meeting. There was a flurry of activity prior to the official start of the meeting as members reviewed the displays and stamp offerings. President **Ed Murtha** gavelled the meeting to order promptly at 7:30 PM. **Bob Stolarz** read the minutes from March's meeting and the Treasurer's report was presented by **Ron Gonzalez**.

There were two visitors at the meeting. **Bill Anderson** is new to collecting. He has decided to take up his father's



collection which is centered on the 3c Washington from the definitive series of 1851-1857. **Gary Loew**, who gave a talk last year on The Gambia, was at the meeting and has joined the HTPS. We were also pleased to see long-time member **Bill McCarroll** attend the meeting this month.

President Murtha announced that the visit to the APS Headquarters in Bellefonte, PA will take place on April 15-16th. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ed for details. He also mentioned a number of stamp shows in the area, including the **PNSE show** in Oaks on April 1-3 and the **ASDA show** in New York City on April 7-10. **Tony Zingale** still has some free passes for the PNSE show. Please contact Ed if you are interested in carpooling to PNSE on Friday, April 1st.

Plans are underway for the big **NOJEX show** over the Memorial Day weekend in Secaucus, NJ. Volunteers are needed to help set up the show on Thursday and do the take-down on Sunday afternoon. HTPS has placed an ad in the NOJEX program booklet advertising our Society.

Nominations for election of club officers are presented at the April meeting with the election being held at our May meeting. Please contact Ed if you are interested in becoming an officer.

Herman Berenson read a humorous article on the "EuroEnglish" and **Ed Muench** showed some bicycle stamps he could not identify. Tony Zingale sold some donated stamp related items with proceeds going to the Friends of the Hamilton Library. The business meeting ended with the 50/50 drawing, which was suspiciously won by **Jack Sack** and **Jim Cope**.

The evening's **presentation** was by **Bob Rufe**, president of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, who has been studying the U.S. Special Handling stamps of 1925-1955 (Scott QE1-4). You have all seen these stamps, and every US collector has the set of four in their collection, but you probably know little about the history and use of these stamps.

The Special Handling stamps were a fore-runner of the present day "Priority Mail", and allowed one to send packages in the

same mail-stream and speed as first class mail. This service was used mostly for sending live animals, such as chicks and bees,



through the mail, but was also known to be used by students away at school to send laundry home to their mothers to be

washed (see photos below)!



Bob gave us a history of the stamps including the various rate changes and the withdrawal of the 25c issue in 1928. There were several different printings of the stamps which have led to multiple color and gum varieties.

He believes there are actually 15 different varieties of the Special Handling stamps – not including several major plate flaws.



He also showed some of the trial color proofs of the stamps that were made before they decided on the deep green color.

(continued on next page)

First day covers of the Special Handling stamps are extremely rare, some fetching thousands of dollars. Some of the different printings that Bob described are unknown on cover, although he has made his own



covers of some of these in order to claim “Earliest Known Use”! Be on the lookout for Special Handling stamps on cover as they may be very valuable.

The Special Handling Stamps were last printed in 1955, and went off-sale by the Post Office in 1959. However, Special Handling Service is still available for unusual items that need to be handled carefully through the mail – like live poultry and bees. As the postal manual states, these packages will receive “preferential handling to the extent that it’s practical in dispatch and transportation.”

[As a test, I used the USPS website’s postage calculator to send a package with Special Handling, but was unable to find this added service among the options available].

We thank Bob for taking the time to come and share his knowledge of this little known postal service and its stamps. There is still much to be discovered about the history and use of even some common stamps.

Stamp Center Changes Hands



Keith March (right), Founder and President of the Stamp Center of Wilmington, Delaware, and home of the Dutch County Auctions, has announced that he has sold the business.

Source: Stamp Center Website

The new owner is Russell Eggert of Marlton NJ. Russ, an avid stamp collector, plans to maintain the same location and level of customer service that we have always enjoyed with Keith. We wish Russ well in his new venture, and best wishes to Keith on his retirement.

HTPS Officer Nominations

The primary business function at our April meeting is the nominations for the four HTPS Officer positions to take effect in June (elections are held in May):

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice-President
- ⇒ Treasurer
- ⇒ Secretary

We also have seven Support Team functions, listed on the back page, that require member participation. A list of duties for these positions is always posted at meetings and is also available on our web site.

We urge all HTPS members to consider running for election or volunteering for one of the support positions.

New Dealer at Hightstown

It is always good to get some “fresh blood” at a long established stamp bourse such as the Hightstown Stamp Show. We are glad to welcome a new dealer, Ryan Terlecky, to the show. Ryan is a Philadelphia school teacher and has been a frequent dealer at the Columbus Flea Market. He also has a table at the Merchantville Stamp Bourse held on the 1st Saturday of the month.



Ryan’s offerings include an eclectic array of stamps – from 10c and 25c boxes to much higher priced items. We look forward to seeing Ryan in the future and wish him well at the bourses.

HTPS Meetings . . .

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hamilton Township Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way (off Whitehorse Mercerville Road) in Hamilton, NJ.

HTPS Notices

On-line Newsletters: Four years of our Newsletters are available online at HamiltonPhilatelic.org. Check out past meeting presentations and take advantage of the live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

Upcoming Events

- 4/1-3 → PNSE – Philadelphia Expo Center – Route 422 – Oaks, PA – Fri. & Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM – www.pnse.org.
- 4/2 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 4/7 MSC meeting for location].
- 4/3 → Garden State Coin, Stamp & Currency Show – PAL Building – 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 4/7 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM.
- 4/7-10 → ASDA Spring Show – New Yorker Hotel – 481 Eighth Ave. – NYC – Thur. to Sat. 10-6 PM – Sun. 10-4 PM.
- 4/9 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.

- 4/9 → DELPEX 2010 – Nur Shrine Center – 198 South Dupont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM.
- 4/17 → Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM
- 4/17 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 4/19 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**
- 4/20 → MSC Meeting (See 4/7 MSC meeting info).
- 4/22-23 → Garden State Spring Stamp & Postcard Show – Bethwood Manor – 38 Lackawanna Avenue – Totowa, NJ – Fri. 10 to 6 PM – Sat. 10 to 5 PM.
- 4/30 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 4/7 MSC meeting for location].
- 4/30-5/1 → Spring Stamp, Coin, Cover & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun. 10 to 4 PM – www.cliftonnj.org/stamp.

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see: www.stampshows.com – www.stamps.org www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.

The objective of this Newsletter is to promote philately, educate and inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to join the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society.

----- HTPS Officers -----

President Ed Murtha
Vice President Jeff Boyarsky
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

----- HTPS Support Team -----

APS Representative Jon Madsen
Historian Joe Seliga
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
Philatelic Donations Sherm Britton
Webmaster Jack Sack
50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ken Steel

----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ Apr. 19 – *"The 1926 Philadelphia Sesquicentennial"* (by Hank Applegate)
- ⇒ May 17 – HTPS Member Presentations
- ⇒ June 21 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 19 – Swap Meeting
- ⇒ Aug. 16 – HAMPEX '11

Newsletter Articles . . .

We are always looking for philatelic articles, ideas or suggestions. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-890-8211; or email us at hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org.